Farmers provided relief under ARDR Scheme

3450. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the percentage of farmers amongst the beneficiaries indentified under Agricultural and Rural Debt Relief Scheme who have been extended refinance by various financial institutions, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): The data reporting system does not generate the information in the manner asked for. However, it may be stated that all the farmers who have cleared their overdues on their own and/or by taxing recourse to the provisions of Agricultural and Rural Debt Relief (ARDR) Scheme, 1990 are eligible for fresh loans from the banks and other financial institutions.

Tea advances given by United Bank of India in Assam

3451. SHRI BHADRESWAR BURAGOHAIN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total amount of tea advance given by the United Bank of India in Assam up till now, year-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that the entire tea finance is controlled from Calcutta;

(c) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to set up a tea department in the Guwahati Zonal office of the bank; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) As per data available from United Bank of India, year wise total advances in tea accounts for Assam gardens during the last three years are as under:—

(Rs. in Crores)

	1989	1990	1991
Total advances in Assam	94	106	139

(b) The bank has reported that 10 small garden accounts are controlled by their regional office in Assam and all other accounts are sanctioned and controlled from Calcutta.

(c) and (d) There is no proposal with the bank to set up a separate tea department in their Guwahati Zonal office.

Appointment of General Manager of United Bank of India, Guwahati

3452. SHRI BHADRESWAR BURAGOHAIN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the Zonal office of the United Bank of India for the North Eastern Region was set up at Guwahati in 1986 with a General Manager as its head;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for not appointing a General Manager till date; and

(c) by when a General manager will be appointed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) and (b) According to the organisational structure of the United Bank of India, Zonal Offices are headed by Deputy General Managers only. However, in 1986 a General Manager was placed in charge of the Guwahati Zonal Office as a temporary measure. The posting was not in response to felt needs but necessitated by administrative expediency.

(c) Does not arise.

Facilities for payment of Customs Duties at Airports

3453. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to make arrangements for augmentation of facilities for payment of customs duties at all International airports where the State Bank of India has counters; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.